

West Central Region Forest Pest Update – 7/17/2006

(Todd Lanigan and Bria Radtke)

Topics covered this month:

Insects: emerald ash borer
 jack pine budworm
 twig pruner
 pale green weevil
 oak timberworm
 fall webworm
 white pine weevil
 gypsy moth

Diseases: none

Other: drought

Emerald ash borer (EAB) - Second find in Illinois: A resident in Wilmette, a suburb north of Chicago, discovered an emerald ash borer beetle recently and alerted the Wilmette City Forester. An initial survey found suspect trees in approximately a five-block area with as many as 16 trees exhibiting symptoms of EAB infestation. The infestation in Kane County, west of Chicago, is still being investigated, but is likely about a half mile wide.

Forest health staff are receiving many calls from residents who think they may have EAB and we're grateful for the public's participation. Please record all the calls you get about EAB and encourage residents to save and submit suspicious larvae or beetles to their local extension agent, city or DNR forester, or forest health staff. Residents can also call 1-800-462-2803 to report possible EAB sitings. More information about EAB can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/Ash/> or www.emeraldashborer.info (*hit your control button and left click your mouse at the same time to get to all internet links*).

Jack pine budworm – Damage from this caterpillar is widespread this year. It is defoliating both jack and red pine west of Port Edwards along Hwy. 54. It is also defoliating 14- to 20-year-old red pine plantations in Dunn Co., east of Wheeler along Hwy. 170 and south of Colfax along Hwy. 40. Keep your eyes open for possible budworm defoliation in red pine. More information is available at:

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_jack/ht_jack.htm



Twig pruner – Todd has been receiving phone calls and samples about oak branches with leaves attached lying on the ground. People will pick up the branches and the next day more branches are on the ground. The culprit is a beetle larva called twig pruner. If you look at the branch lying on the ground, you will see a small tunnel running down the center of the branch, and the larva will still be inside (you may have to clean out the frass plug at the end of the branch to find the larva or split the branch open). This pest feeds in the following hosts: oak, chestnut, hickory, maple, linden, flowering fruit trees, hackberry, honey locust, and elm. The twig pruner overwinters in the fallen branch, so the best control measure is to pick up the fallen branches and destroy them before next spring.

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/privland/forprot/health/nyfo/oakprune.pdf>



Pale green weevil (a.k.a. Asiatic oak weevil) –

This weevil is an introduced species that has a wide distribution, and since this is a small green bug, it is often confused for emerald ash borer. The adult beetle is a minor defoliator that feeds on leaves, shoots and buds of many broadleaf hosts including aspen and oak. They can become a nuisance around homes. Adults are present May-July. Read more at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/pubs/oakpests/p14_15.html

Oak timber worm- *Arrhenodes minutus*- Adult weevils can be found under bark or in damaged oak trees. Feeding larvae cause small wormholes that reduce the quality of timber. Read more at:

<http://www.forestpests.org/borers/oaktimberworm.html>



Fall webworm – Webbing from fall webworm is starting to show up. While this caterpillar feeds on over 100 different species of forest and shade trees, it is more of a yard tree aesthetics problem than a forest health issue. If you have a young tree that is completely covered with webbing, that tree could be in trouble. If people want to use an insecticide to control fall webworm, they need to make sure the insecticide penetrates through the webbing and the product is labeled for webworms or caterpillars. Opening up the web with stick or some sort of pole may be the easiest way to control the caterpillars. Fall webworm overwinters as a pupa (cocoon) in the litter or soil and adults emerge May-July. Control information available at:

<http://www.entomology.umn.edu/cues/Web/133FallWebworm.pdf>

White pine weevil- White pine leaders are beginning to droop due to feeding damage from white pine weevil larvae. The larvae feed under the bark in spring and early summer, pupate in woody chip cocoons on the stems and emerge as adults in mid-July. The adults overwinter in leaf litter. Pruning and destroying drooping or dead shoots before the adults emerge will help control the weevil population. White pine weevils

feed on white pine, Norway and Colorado blue spruce, and occasionally nibble on other pine species. More information at:

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/wp_weevil/weevil.htm

Gypsy moth- DATCP is finishing pheromone flake applications in the Ashland area the week of July 17. Residents from Marathon, Wood, Portage and Adams Co. have been contacting their DNR foresters, the gypsy moth coordinator, or calling the hotline with caterpillar complaints. Only a few large female caterpillars are left; most are pupating, and a few moths have already been reported flying.



Drought Conditions – once again we are in a summer drought. A lot of trees and shrubs are dropping their leaves or needles. Some of the leaves and needles are changing color so it looks like we are having an early fall.